

TELECOMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

May 15, 2006
CMS 06- 24

Bureau of Communication
and Computer Services

From:

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Verizon Wireless: Services & Pricing Clarification

Agency Telecommunications Coordinators continue to have numerous questions regarding cellular/wireless services and pricing. This Bulletin will address frequently asked basic service and rate question while providing some guidelines for selecting specific calling plans. We also suggest you log on to our web site for more specific carrier features and additional pricing for the variety of devices available.

CELLULAR SERVICE PLANS

BASIC "FLAT-RATE" SERVICE: This plan is suggested for State employees needing a cellular phone for emergency purposes with limited calling potential. It is the cost-effective solution for employees who consistently have less than 243 minutes of use per month. The monthly service fee is \$8.53: no minutes of use are included and all air time is billed at \$0.11 per minute.

STATE OF ILLINOIS AGGREGATED BUSINESS SHARE PLANS: These plans are cost-effective options for State-issued cellular users who do not travel outside Illinois. The plans allow free roaming within Illinois, free in-calling between Verizon Wireless devices, and minutes of use are shared with other State plan participants; thus, overage charges are less likely to occur. We suggest Coordinators review the monthly billing for plan members and submit a TSR to change the plan based on the pattern of calling/minutes-of-use.

Business Share Plan:	Cost Effective When:	Monthly Pricing:
400 Minute Plan	(243 to 559 minutes of use per month)	\$ 35.19
800 Minute Plan	(560 to 1,119 minutes of use per month)	\$ 52.79
1600 Minute Plan:	(1,120 to 1,999 minutes of use per month)	\$ 87.99
2500 Minute Plan:	(2,000 or more minutes of use per month)	\$131.99

AMERICA'S CHOICE PLANS: These plans are cost-effective options for State-issued cellular users who, as a regular practice, must travel outside the State of Illinois and should only be used by those who regularly incur out-of-state travel. The plans include free nation-wide roaming and free in-calling between Verizon Wireless devices. We caution that these plans do not allow users to share minutes with other cellular lines; thus, the cellular user is subject to overage charges if he/she exceeds the monthly plan minutes. Overage charges are \$0.275 per minute

America's Choice Plan:	Cost Effective When:	Monthly Pricing:
550 Minute Plan:	(613 minutes of use -or less- per month)	\$ 35.35
1100 Minute Plan:	(614 to 1,164 minutes of use per month)	\$ 52.75
1650 Minute Plan:	(1,165 to 1,713 minutes of use per month)	\$ 70.50
2500 Minute Plan:	(1,714 to 2,759 minutes of use per month)	\$ 88.00
5000 Minute Plan	(2,760 minutes of use -or more—per month)	\$132.00

(...continued...)

For more information...
visit our website at
www.state.il.us/cms/telecom

TEXT MESSAGING PLANS: All phones come with text messaging capabilities on a "pay as you use" basis. Users pay \$0.03 for each incoming text message and \$0.11 for each outgoing message. There are also cost-effective text messaging plans available for cellular users who prefer this method of communication. All plans include unlimited incoming messages and an additional \$0.11 charge for each outgoing message that exceeds the plan maximum.

Text Messaging Monthly Pricing*:

250 Outgoing Text Messages: \$ 5.50

500 Outgoing Text Messages: \$ 11.00

1000 Outgoing Text Messages: \$ 16.50

2500 Outgoing Text Messages: \$ 22.00

* Please note: Text Messaging plans are not available on Blackberry devices.

BLACKBERRY SERVICE PLANS

It is important to note that Blackberry devices can be used for **both** voice and data services. CMS recommends that when both services are needed, the Blackberry be activated for both purposes. This generates cost savings and eliminates the need for multiple user devices.

Blackberry Data Service Pricing (when ordered simultaneously with a voice plan*):

Blackberry 10 mb \$ 22.00

Blackberry Unlimited \$ 39.59

*Please note: Cost of the voice plan is billed in addition to the cost of the data plan.
Users may be placed on any of the available State of Illinois voice plans.

Blackberry Data Service Pricing (data cost for a data-only plan*):

Blackberry 10 mb \$ 33.00

Blackberry Unlimited \$ 43.99

* Please note: Voice services are functional with a data-only plan and are billed at \$0.28 per minute. To eliminate voice services, CMS must receive a Telecommunications Service Request (TSR) that specifies voice services are to be "blocked."

WIRELESS DATA PLANS

These plans are for cellular data users.

Unlimited Broadband EVDO* \$ 70.25

* Please note: As of April 2006, services are available only in Chicago and St. Louis.

Unlimited National Access 1XRTT \$ 52.75

If agency Telecommunications Coordinators have additional questions on wireless pricing and services, they may also call the CMS Customer Solution Center:

800-366-8768 Option 2, Sub-Option 5
[in Centrex at 217-524-4784]